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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Fifty-fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1304th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 1 March 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ABOUL-NASR

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRMAN declared open the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He welcomed Mr. Ferrero Costa's return to the Committee and indicated that Mrs. McDougall, being engaged in other tasks, had informed him that she would not be able to participate in the work before the second week of the session. Mr. Wolfrum, who had likewise been assigned to other tasks, would be returning to the Committee only at the August session. He welcomed Mr. Francisco Aguilar, the new Chief of the Support Services Branch. Before turning to the adoption of the agenda, he gave the floor to the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Mr. RAMCHARAN (Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that, having been in contact with the members of the Committee for 14 years, mainly in his capacity as a delegate to the Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York, and having long been a student and disciple of Professor van Boven for whom he had a profound admiration, he was particularly glad to have an opportunity to address the Committee on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, who had asked him to transmit her greetings and best wishes for success.

3. Since the end of the Second World War, the idea of incorporating the principle of non-discrimination in international law had made headway. That principle pervaded the text of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in General Comment No. XIV formulated during its forty-second session, the Committee had noted that "non-discrimination, together with equality before the law and equal protection of the law without any discrimination, constitutes a basic principle in the protection of human rights". To determine the existence of discrimination, it was sufficient to see whether an action under scrutiny had an unjustifiable disparate impact upon a group distinguished by race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

4. In a recent book on CERD and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, one of the distinguished members of the Committee had written that the effective implementation of a human rights instrument such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination depended on a triangular relationship between the States parties, the treaty body and members of the public within the States parties. The question was whether States were ready to discipline those among them who failed to discharge their obligations in that regard. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination appeared as the custodian of the principle of equality and non-discrimination in the eyes of the public and of history and, in that respect, was sustaining the hopes of mankind.

5. In the early stages of the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. Malik of Lebanon, who was one of the architects of that instrument, had emphasized the principle that the human person was more

important than the racial or national group to which he or she belonged. It was in that spirit that article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

6. Several years later, Mr. Hernan Santa Cruz of Chile, who was one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration, had written in a study on racial discrimination, which he had undertaken for the United Nations, that the general principles relating to the elimination of racial discrimination had been clearly set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and, therefore, recommendations needed to be formulated to ensure that racial discrimination was eliminated in the political sphere by all appropriate means, including legislation, and also in the economic and social spheres in which it constituted a major cause of inequality of opportunity. In that regard, he had pleaded in favour of continued cooperation between United Nations organs and the ILO in order to eliminate racial discrimination in the field of employment. He had also urged countries to adopt dynamic education policies guaranteeing access to education for all citizens as the surest way to eliminate de facto discrimination and, to that end, had called for cooperation between United Nations organs and UNESCO.

7. In General Comment No. XVII, formulated during its forty-second session, the Committee had recommended that States parties establish national commissions or other appropriate bodies to promote respect for the enjoyment of human rights without discrimination, to review government policies concerning protection against racial discrimination, to monitor legislative compliance with the provisions of the Convention, to educate the public about the obligations of States parties under the Convention and to assist the Government in the preparation of reports to be submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

8. In its decision 9/53 which it had adopted during the previous year concerning its contribution to the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Committee had indicated that the following issues might be included on the agenda of the Conference: the aftermath of slavery and colonialism; impact of economic globalization and racial inequality; treatment of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons; prevention of racial discrimination, including early-warning and urgent procedures; prevention of racial discrimination through education; remedies; redress mechanisms and reparations for racial discrimination; international mechanisms for the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and their progressive development; efforts to combat statements inciting hatred and to promote tolerance in the computer era; and the implications of multiple identities (race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin and gender).

9. Although it could be said that, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the principle of racial equality had been expressed literally in a vacuum, the fact that it was currently based on an impressive collection of legal rules had not eliminated the above-mentioned problems. The turn of the century had been marked by wars and conflicts rooted in prejudice and

intolerance, as though reality were defying the principles and legal rules that had been promulgated. Moreover, some of the core principles were being sorely tested in the treatment of aliens, migrants and refugees, to mention only a few categories.

10. Against that dismal background, one thing was clear: if anyone could keep hope alive, it was CERD. The decision taken at the forty-fifth session to systematically include on the Committee's agenda an item devoted to the prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures, was crucial. From the strategic standpoint that preventive approach constituted a major breakthrough. At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the challenge lay in preventive measures to be taken at the national level in the constitutional and legislative spheres, in the judicial and law-enforcement systems, in education policy and in the institutions responsible for providing special protection for the most vulnerable individuals.

11. Those preventive strategies at the national level should be buttressed by exchanges of views and experience at the regional level which, in turn, would help to strengthen prevention and protection. By building on both national strategies and regional efforts, it would be possible to reinforce international cooperation for the prevention and elimination of racial discrimination.

12. Turning to the new developments that had taken place since the Committee's last session, he was pleased to announce that South Africa, Kazakhstan and Lithuania had ratified the Convention, thereby bringing the total number of States parties to 153. South Africa and Malta had also made the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention, as a result of which the number of States parties which recognized the Committee's competence to receive and consider recommendations currently stood at 27. With regard to the amendments to article 8 of the Convention, there had been no new ratifications and therefore, with an unchanged total of 24 States parties, the amendments had not yet entered into force.

13. Moreover, as the members of the Committee were certainly aware, the Commission on Human Rights had established an open-ended working group on the forthcoming World Conference against Racism to review and formulate proposals to be transmitted to the Commission for consideration.

14. As the members were also aware, the General Assembly had decided to extend the summer session of the Committee by one week. That decision would be implemented on a trial basis during the coming summer and the following year.

15. The Committee had an impressive number of items on its agenda. On behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, he commended the members for their dedication, assured them of the full and ongoing support of the Office of the High Commissioner and expressed the hope that their work would turn the twenty-first century into an era of equality, tolerance and good-neighbourliness.

16. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights for his statement, which certainly provided food for thought. He had particularly appreciated his historical analysis.

17. However, he regretted that Mr. Ramcharan's statement had made no mention of the many administrative problems with which the members of the Committee were faced. Although the members were kindly invited to attend meetings of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as other important meetings concerning human rights which were sometimes held in places far from their homes, no arrangements had been made to cover their travel costs. Likewise, if the members intended to give radio or television interviews concerning serious problems of discrimination, they were totally unable to hold urgent meetings due to the lack of financial resources.

18. He hoped that the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights would bring those questions to the attention of the High Commissioner so that the latter could make suggestions concerning ways to enable the members of the Committee to address those problems in an effective manner.

19. Mr. BANTON drew the Committee's attention to the need to avoid overlapping between the activities of the various treaty-monitoring bodies in the field of human rights. In that regard, he hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would cooperate with the secretariat of the Committee with a view to ensuring rational management of the meagre resources available, for example by avoiding situations in which different treaty-monitoring bodies might prepare reports on the same questions for submission to supervisory bodies. To that end, there should be better coordination between the chairpersons of those various bodies.

20. He also drew attention to the need to ensure the proper functioning of the Website of the Office of the High Commissioner on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in order to give full effect to the relevant decision taken at the recent meeting of chairpersons of treaty-monitoring bodies and to ensure that information was offered in a satisfactory manner at the site in question and also at those of the other treaty-monitoring bodies.

21. Mr. SHERIFIS thanked the Deputy High Commissioner for his stimulating statement and wished him every success in his new functions. He noted with satisfaction that three further States had ratified the Convention, which brought the number of ratifications to 153 and contributed to the achievement of the aim of making the Convention universal. In that regard, he nevertheless believed that the assistance that the Office of the High Commissioner rendered to the Committee should concern mainly the countries that had not yet ratified that instrument, by encouraging them to do so, explaining to them the significance and the importance of the Convention and making representations to Governments when violations were reported in their territory.

22. He also hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner would endeavour to ensure a broader dissemination of information concerning the aims of the Convention and the activities undertaken by the Committee to achieve them, particularly by cooperating closely with the United Nations Department of

Information. He also hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner would accord high priority to situations involving flagrant, gross and systematic violations of human rights in some countries of the world.

23. In addition, he would like the Deputy High Commissioner to specify whether the protective barriers surrounding the United Nations Office at Geneva were in any way related to flagrant, gross and systematic violations of human rights.

24. He had noted with satisfaction the information provided by the Deputy High Commissioner to the effect that the number of States that had made the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention had increased considerably. He understood that the developing countries had raised objections concerning article 14 while, on the other hand, those countries would be particularly in favour of the application of that article. He requested the Deputy High Commissioner to provide the Committee with clarifications on that subject.

25. He added that the members of the Committee, most of whom lived in countries at a great distance from the United Nations Office, were unable to attend meetings to which they were invited in their capacity as members of the Committee due to the lack of the necessary financial resources. The Office of the High Commissioner should study that question.

26. The CHAIRMAN, replying to part of the question that Mr. Sherifis had addressed to the Deputy High Commissioner, said that, for his part, he understood that some developed countries had raised objections not to article 14 but to the Convention itself. He added that the position of the developing countries was evolving in response to the lack of impartiality in the handling of human rights violations.

27. Mr. van BOVEN welcomed, with great personal satisfaction, Mr. Ramcharan's assumption of his new functions as Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and thanked Mr. Ramcharan for the kind words addressed to him. Current developments called to mind their past collaboration on the human rights situation in Guatemala, where the National Commission of Inquiry had recently revealed violations that were even graver than those that they had suspected at the time. The genocide that had been committed against the Mayas in that country once again underlined the fact that it was the indigenous populations, being particularly vulnerable groups, which were most frequently the victims of the gravest large-scale and persistent acts of discrimination against the rights of the human person. The Committee should bring pressure to bear on the Governments concerned in order to induce them to adopt a position and intervene with a view to putting an end to such situations. The preventive approach should also be emphasized in order to avoid the recurrence of such acts.

28. He said that the ratification of the Convention by South Africa constituted a historic event which should be particularly welcomed. He recalled that the long struggle that had been waged in South Africa against the apartheid regime had given rise to a number of measures and innovative initiatives by the United Nations and had been highly instrumental in ensuring the adoption of the Convention.

29. Mr. FERRERO COSTA thanked the Chairman for the kind words addressed to him on the occasion of his resumption of his seat on the Committee after a period of absence necessitated by important political functions in his country. He welcomed Mr. Ramcharan's assumption of his new functions as Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the appointment of Mr. Francesco Aguilar as the new Representative of the Secretary-General, which augured well for the future of the Committee given the devotion of those persons to the struggle against discrimination and the cause of human rights.

30. He regretted that the Committee's activities were not receiving the attention that they merited and, in turn, stressed the need to accord continuing priority to the prevention of violations, which should be considered as one of the Committee's principal tasks. He also stressed the need to affirm the Committee's presence in that field. He likewise regretted that the considerable professional skills and experience of the members of the Committee were not being used to greater advantage to settle problems and situations involving human rights violations throughout the world. In that regard, it was unfortunate that provisions to that effect had not been included in the Convention itself.

31. Having previously noted, in his capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country, that the exact functions of the Committee were not widely known at the international level, he invited the experts to study mechanisms to keep Member States and their citizens better informed of their fundamental activities within the United Nations machinery for the defence of human rights.

32. He would like to know more about the Committee's participation in the organization of the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. He would be grateful if the Deputy High Commissioner could specify what measures had been planned to enable the Committee, which was the principal organ of the United Nations system in the field of racial discrimination, to participate extensively and actively in that organization and particularly in the selection of the topics of the Conference.

33. He was also glad to learn that 153 States had now ratified the Convention, which had thereby become one of the most widely recognized international human rights instruments. That was a reflection of the fact that the Convention and the Committee enjoyed the support of the vast majority of the international community.

34. Mr. de GOUTTES endorsed the observations made by Mr. Ferrero Costa, Mr. van Boven and Mr. Sherifis. Referring to the question of the preparations for the World Conference against Racism, he recalled that CERD, by virtue of its mandate, had an important role to play within the open-ended working group that had been established by the Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, in view of the fact that regional meetings were being prepared, he emphasized that it was highly important to draw up the agenda of that Conference without further delay so that the parties concerned could take note of the topics put forward within the framework of the said Conference, as well as the reports prepared within the United Nations system. In that way, the regional meetings would be able to focus on topics determined by the United Nations.

35. Mr. RECHETOV, while welcoming Mr. Ramcharan's return to Geneva, said that he regretted the lack of direct communication with the management of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. He noted that, notwithstanding the endeavours made by CERD, it had not been possible to avoid genocidal situations. That was the case in Kosovo, for example, concerning which CERD had made recommendations which had not been put into effect. Recalling that the implementation of the Convention was one of CERD's major concerns, he called upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to make it clear to countries that it was not sufficient to accede to the Convention, which also needed to be applied. In fact, he noted that an increasing number of countries were merely ratifying the Convention. In that regard, he drew the Committee's attention to the fact that some countries might be reluctant to apply the provisions of the Convention or to discuss problems during the CERD sessions at Geneva in the belief that the concept of human rights that United Nations organs had adopted failed to take into consideration their culture, their legal system (such as that of the Shari'a, for example) or their mode of thought, as a result of which they doubted whether a constructive dialogue could be established between them and the bodies concerned.

36. The CHAIRMAN agreed with Mr. Rechetov that an effort should be made to understand the modes of thought, the values and the legal systems of countries that were finding it difficult to implement the Convention.

37. Mr. SHAHI emphasized the preventive aspect of the work of CERD. He noted with regret that the United Nations system was powerless to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity and, consequently, on the occasion of the World Conference against Racism, the High Commissioner for Human Rights should stress the importance of preventive measures. Care should be taken to avoid repetition of the errors of the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in 1993, at which CERD's representations in that regard had been drowned in a flood of statements and at which decisions had been taken on human rights questions which, in the final analysis, were less important than that of the right to life. The Committee's contribution to the preparatory work for the World Conference against Racism was a matter to which CERD attached great importance and on which the Committee had submitted studies to the Commission on Human Rights. Its proposals made reference, inter alia, to the recommendations of the Carnegie Commission concerning the establishment of a rapid intervention force for crisis situations and, in view of the financial implications, it hoped that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would give due attention to those recommendations, as well as the studies undertaken by the members of CERD.

38. In conclusion, he pointed out that education, as a preventive measure in the struggle against discrimination, was an aspect of prevention that should not be disregarded.

39. The CHAIRMAN endorsed the comments of Mr. Shahi, expressed the hope that there would be closer cooperation between CERD and the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism and invited the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to duly take into consideration the studies undertaken by some members of the Committee.

40. Mr. GARVALOV welcomed the fact that, in his statement, Mr. Ramcharan had recognized the importance of CERD as a human rights treaty-monitoring body. He agreed with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights that States should take action at the domestic level to combat racial discrimination. Since international norms had been established in that respect, States should apply them. With regard to the World Conference against Racism, a frank and direct approach should be adopted in order to be able to propose effective solutions to the international community. For its part, CERD would be able to make an important contribution not only to the preparations for the Conference but also to its deliberations and decisions.

41. Concerning the studies undertaken by members of CERD, he mentioned the analysis that had been carried out jointly with the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on article 7 of the Convention, which showed that there was little hope of eradicating racial discrimination without instruction, education, culture and information.

42. Finally, on the question of prevention, he referred to a suggestion that had been made following consultations with senior United Nations officials, namely that analyses of crisis situations carried out by treaty-monitoring bodies, within the framework of the early-warning and urgent action procedures of CERD, should be brought, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the attention of the Secretary-General who would himself decide whether it was necessary to bring the situations in question before the Security Council. In this way, it would be possible to react rapidly and prevent situations from deteriorating, as had happened in the case of Kosovo.

43. The CHAIRMAN added that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was one of the first bodies to concern itself with Kosovo, to which it had even sent a delegation four years ago. Unfortunately, that had remained an isolated initiative and, at the time, no one had paid attention to what was happening in that territory.

44. Mr. RAMCHARAN (Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights) welcomed the fact that the debate that he had opened had given rise to an extensive exchange of views between the secretariat and the members of the Committee on questions that were proving to be crucial for peace and justice throughout the world. He recalled that, after leaving the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva, he had participated in numerous peace negotiations and had had an opportunity to familiarize himself with numerous conflicts both within and between States. From that experience, he had concluded that the possibility of preventing or defusing numerous conflicts depended on the political will of the majority to adopt a "vision" of the future. Countries should initiate a dialogue in which all the components of society would take part and should devise policies, approaches and strategies that would enable them to coexist and to visualize a future based on respect, tolerance and good-neighbourly relations. That was where the wisdom and accumulated skills of the Committee could play a role.

45. With regard to the meeting of chairpersons of treaty-monitoring or other bodies established under the terms of international human rights instruments, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was currently preparing a core document for them. The Organization obviously did not have the resources needed to enable it to meet the challenges with which it was faced in the

field of human rights. For that reason, the High Commissioner had deemed it necessary to conduct an in-depth analysis of needs and expectations in the Organization's key fields of action, including meetings of the chairpersons of treaty-monitoring bodies. Like the members of the Committee, he acknowledged that the question of overlapping jurisdictions among the various United Nations organs responsible for verifying the application of human rights instruments was a question that should be raised on the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of chairpersons of treaty-monitoring bodies.

46. He gave an assurance that the High Commissioner for Human Rights would do everything possible to accelerate ratifications of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to ensure a better dissemination of its objectives.

47. Concerning the present difficulty of access to the Palais des Nations, he pointed out that a group of protesters had recently gained entry to the Palais, from which they had been removed only after several days. He affirmed that, according to the Security and Safety Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), there were valid reasons for closing the main entrance to UNOG.

48. Believing, like Mr. van Boven, that the information concerning Guatemala that had recently been disclosed revealed practices akin to genocide, he stressed the importance of a preventive approach in regard to vulnerable population groups. In that respect, CERD had a major role to play because it had a responsibility not only to monitor the application of the Convention but also to take action in the event of the non-presentation of periodic reports by States parties.

49. On the subject of the holding of the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination, he pointed out that an open-ended working group had been established by the Commission on Human Rights to make preparations for that conference. The Working Group would begin its work during the first week of the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Rights, i.e. on 22 March of the present year. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had compiled for the Commission a document containing an exhaustive list of important works published in the field of racism and racial discrimination, as well as a detailed list of the studies and other activities that the members of the Committee had undertaken on those questions. The Office of the High Commissioner would endeavour to transmit a preliminary draft of that document to the members of the Committee before the end of the current session.

50. He also pointed out that the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights had specifically invited the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, together with the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights, to contribute to the holding of the World Conference against Racism. He explained that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights had sought to include in that document, to be submitted to the Commission, the recommendations of the Committee's experts and those of the Sub-Commission so that they could serve as guidelines for the Working Group, the Sub-Commission and the Conference itself to formulate policies and effective strategies for action in that field. The Office of the High Commissioner, having studied

ways to ensure the success of that Conference and having drawn lessons from two decades of struggle against racism, from two world conferences against racism and from the studies conducted by the Committee, had concluded that practical proposals for action were indispensable in order to meet the challenge posed by the struggle against racism.

51. With regard to the role that CERD could play in that field, he felt that the Committee should remind the Commission's Working Group and the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference that the Convention itself embodied a global strategy to combat racism and racial discrimination and that the Committee was playing a key role in ensuring its application. Although the future of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination depended largely on the implementation of that instrument, in order to be effective the struggle at the international level needed to be backed by action at the national level.

52. Concerning the timetable of preparations for the World Conference against Racism, he indicated that a special secretariat had been formed by the Working Group to study the Conference's programme of work. That question was extremely important and he would personally ensure that the Committee's experts were systematically informed of the scheduled activities of the Conference and of the documents submitted to the Commission under that item and that the Commission's Working Group had access to the studies undertaken by CERD.

53. In response to a question concerning the follow-up on the proposals made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights during the Committee's previous session, he said that he would request Mrs. Robinson to come and personally present her viewpoint on that question to the Committee during the current session.

54. He also indicated that, as policy director of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs specialized in African questions, he had always submitted questions relating to human rights to the Secretary-General of the Organization so that the latter, in turn, could inform the Security Council. The work carried out by CERD was carefully taken into consideration by the Secretary-General's team, even if that was not directly evident. He emphasized the fact that a dialogue existed between the Secretariat and the Committee and believed that the members of CERD, in their capacity as the custodians of the Convention, would be eager to initiate a strategic review of racism and racial discrimination.

55. Mr. SHERIFIS said that he clearly understood why the Palais des Nations was surrounded by barriers and had merely wanted to raise the question of the underlying causes of the movement the members of which had gained entry to the Palais. It would be appropriate to consider large-scale violations of human rights anywhere in the world, regardless of whether they concerned individuals or peoples.

56. Mr. AGHA SHAHI said that he had a copy of the Carnegie Commission's study on conflict prevention, as well as its conclusions and recommendations on long-term "structural prevention" measures, such as education, and the role that NGOs, the scientific community and journalists could play in the

prevention of genocide. The Carnegie Commission, the eminent members of which included Mr. Cyrus Vance and Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, had sent that study to all Governments and it would be quite appropriate to make it available to the members of the Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (item 1 of the provisional agenda) (CERD/C/344)

57. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to document CERD/C/344, which contained the provisional agenda for the session. He indicated that the timetable of the session would be modified as soon as the Committee's officers had had the time to meet and discuss it. He explained that, although Bahrain had actually submitted its report in accordance with the Convention, that report, being in Arabic, would first of all have to be translated and the Committee might not be able to consider it at the next session or two. At all events, Bahrain should no longer appear on the list of States that had not submitted an initial report.

58. The provisional agenda was adopted, subject to subsequent modification.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.